

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10-12, 14, 16, 18 and 21-22 as unpatentable over the U.S. Publication to Murata in view of the U.S. Publication to Chu et al. The Examiner has concluded that it would have been obvious to modify Murata's invention to allow purchase of points by users. Applicant notes that Murata's apparatus does not involve a vending machine, nor does that of Chu.

Applicant has amended its claims so that the independent claims are now claims 23 and 25, which recite a vending machine that sells products and is provided with point information presentation means for presenting point information on points corresponding to the money inserted, as well as the identification of the particular vending machine where the money is inserted. The center unit to which the point information is sent are accumulated and managed and then distributed to the communication terminal of the user. This is different from the system of either Murata or Chu neither of which involves an apparatus that issues information based on money that is inserted and in particularly not money that is inserted into a vending machine for a product; in so doing it is absolutely necessary and essential to the invention to insure the security of the points and effectively prevent the unauthorized use of such points as applicant is claiming.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and Applicant earnestly solicits an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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